

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **August 23, 2004**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, and 23-34. Claims 26, 29, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier et al. (USPN 5,625,815, hereinafter “Maier”). Claims 27-28, 30-31, and 33-34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, and 23-25 were allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 26, 29, and 32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Maier. Applicant respectfully points out that Maier teaches creating an alternate index by **ordering data** according to values in any specified set of columns (see Maier, col. 5, lines 17-41).

In contrast, the present invention **selects specific rows for auditing** based upon the value in a given field of an accessed row (see page 7, line 22 to page 8, line 2 of the instant application). Selecting specific rows for auditing is different than ordering data based upon the value in a given field of an accessed row. Ordering data provides an index to enable easy access to any given row, while selecting specific rows for auditing allows the auditing record to be created for only rows that meet the criterion—e.g. salary > 1,000,000. This greatly reduces the amount of data that needs to be collected during the auditing process. There is nothing within Maier, either explicit or implicit, which suggests selecting specific rows for auditing based upon the value in a given field of an accessed row.


Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 26, 29, and 32 to clarify that the present invention selects specific rows for auditing based upon the value in a given field of an accessed row. These amendments find support on page 7, line 22 to page 8, line 2 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 17, 26, 29, and 32 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3, 5, 7-8, and 25, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-13 and 15-16, which depend upon claim 9, claims 19-21 and 23-24, which depend upon claim 17, claims 27-28, which depend upon claim 26, claims 30-31, which depend upon claim 29, and claims 33-34, which depend upon claim 32, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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